



WOMEN IN ADULT &  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

## Women in Adult and Vocational Education Newsletter

Issue Number: 2

Year: 2022



**WAVE** is a national network of women involved in VET, adult education and the broad field of work-related education and training. WAVE provides seminars & workshops, research, policy advocacy and advice, as well as networking on an international, national and state basis. We are supported within each state by local representation that in turn contributes collaboratively to national events and governance. W: [www.wave.org.au](http://www.wave.org.au) E: [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au)

### Update

#### **2022 – an interesting year for adult and vocational education**

Our second Newsletter follows the Federal Budget and picks up some of the budgetary issues. There appear to be additional funds in the skills section of the budget, but whether this will have any major impact on women or a very underfunded sector, is unlikely. We've also attached our election policy brief and hope that we will be able to tell you of responses from the Government and opposition parties to our claims.

Visit: [www.wave.org.au/](http://www.wave.org.au/)

Or visit and follow our Socials:



#### Interested in becoming a paid member?

Membership fees are called for in October each year. If you pay now, it will take you through to October this year. To become a paid member of WAVE contact us via email [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au) and we will send you an invoice, or just pay online and let us know.

WAVE membership fees for 2021-2022 are:

- \* **Individual \$50 or \$30 if you are re-joining**
- \* **Organisation \$100 or \$75 if you are re-joining**

Have you ever thought about giving a bit of your time to working with other women in adult and vocational education? Currently we have no representatives in NSW, ACT and Tasmania. All Executive Members must be financial members. Let us know if you are interested.

Linda Simon (National Convenor) [wave@wave.org.au](mailto:wave@wave.org.au)



## The WAVE Equity panel at the AVETRA conference

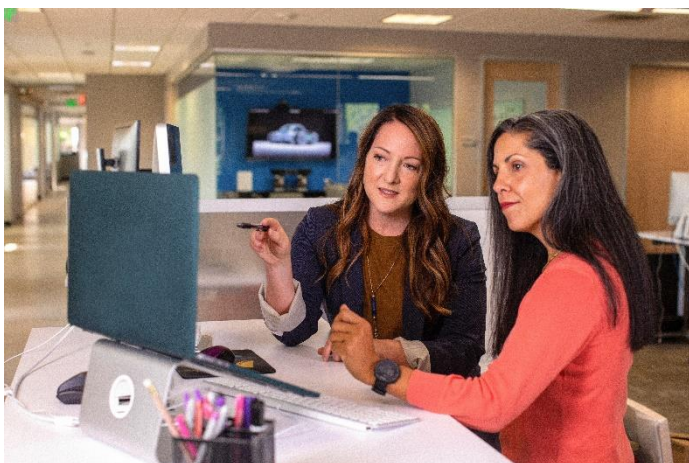
The AVETRA Conference: *Are we there yet? Building a research community to shape VET's future*, will be held from 28-29 April.

As part of the AVETRA conference, WAVE will be hosting an equity panel to be held on the first day of the conference – 28 April at 10.30 am.

You can join the conference in person in Melbourne or online. Speakers on the panel include Jane Newton - Research Manager at Jobs Queensland, Annie Carney – Teaching and Learning Specialist at Box Hill Institute, and Linda Simon – WAVE National Convenor. Discussion will focus on how we bring equity back to the forefront of the VET and adult education sectors.

The WAVE/Sue Salthouse Grant for research into gender and disability will be awarded at the end of the conference.

Register for the AVETRA conference today:  
<https://dg.eventsair.com/avetra-2022-conference>



## Our 2021-2022 WAVE team

### National Committee

Linda Simon: WAVE National Convenor  
Jan Edwards: WAVE Secretary  
Annette Bonnici: WAVE Treasurer  
Elaine Butler: WAVE Ambassador  
Regional and rural: L'Amour Gina-Whewell

### ACT Convenor

Vacant (interested - email us today)

### Northern Territory Convenor

Raelke Grimmer

### Queensland Convenor

Jane Newton  
Deb Parker

### Victoria Convenors

Kira Clarke  
Sally Thompson

### Western Australia Convenors

Sue Thompson  
Sarah Leftwich

### New South Wales Convenor

Vacant (interested - email us today)

### South Australia Convenors

Jan Edwards

### Tasmania Convenor

Vacant (interested - email us today)

For more information about your executive team visit our website or email us today:

[www.wave.org.au/leadership/](http://www.wave.org.au/leadership/)



## WAVE Policy Brief

In the lead-up to the Federal elections, WAVE has sent out a policy brief to the Federal Minister for women, spokespersons for women from opposition parties and a range of relevant organisations. We have highlighted some of the most important issues for women at this time in terms of vocational and adult education. The brief is attached for your interest and to circulate to others who might be interested.



Our brief states: WAVE advocates for women in all their diversity, recognising that focus must also take account of those women and girls made more vulnerable through issues associated with intersectionality, such as but not limited to Indigeneity, dis/ability, location, poverty and age. WAVE highlights important strategies and proposals that should be part of the funding and policies for adult and vocational education of all political parties as we

approach the 2022 federal election.

### The issues we raise specifically are:

- \* short term training is not the answer to decent work for women and girls;
- \* the VET system is losing women and girls and under-serving younger and older women, and those in regional Australia;
- \* the current structures of apprenticeships and traineeships is not supporting the sustainable participation and completion of employment based training by women and girls;

- \* systemic gender inequity in workplaces and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) are multi-layered and impact negatively on women and girls access to vocational education and training and decent work.

Read more on the attached brief.

## Federal Budget

WAVE again participated in a range of meetings/discussions in analysing the Federal Budget and its impact on women.

In terms of skills, the two main areas were:

- \* Funding of \$3.7 billion to states and territories for a new National Skills Agreement. Despite the Heads of Agreement being signed in 2019, the Commonwealth and states and territories do not yet share a view on what this new agreement should look like;
- \* \$1.3 billion over 5 years to support employers to engage and retain new apprentices, mainly employer subsidies and some wage top-ups;
- \* some additional funding for an extra 15,000 aged care training places over two years.

The Women's Budget Statement outlined some minor programs and funding:

- \* the National Careers Institute Partnership Grants program to facilitate career opportunities and pathways for women;
- \* Mid-Career Checkpoint Program to support eligible carers to return to paid work;
- \* Launch to work program for pre-employment projects.





## Report from Jan Edwards

Dr Jan Edwards attended the meeting of the **Australian Council for Educational Development** (ACED) in March 2022. WAVE is a member of ACED. ACEDs objectives are:

- To develop a common advocacy agenda amongst members for education as a human right and as a tool for international development
- To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially as related to education and lifelong learning, and equity and access, and in particular SDG 4
- To affiliate with the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

A key point of discussion was the forthcoming CONFITEA VII conference in Morocco in June 2022 (see <https://www.norrag.org/international-conference-on-adult-education-vii-confitea-in-morocco/>).

The recommendations from the Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training's Inquiry report into adult literacy and its importance, **Don't take it as read** have been released.

*To read the full report see -*

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Employment\\_Education\\_and\\_Training/Adultliteracy/Report%20%20](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Employment_Education_and_Training/Adultliteracy/Report%20%20).

*To see the recommendations see -*

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Employment\\_Education\\_and\\_Training/Adultliteracy/Report/section?id=committees%2freportrep%2f024806%2f79168](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Employment_Education_and_Training/Adultliteracy/Report/section?id=committees%2freportrep%2f024806%2f79168)

*To read ALA's media response see –*

<https://ala.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Media-release-Literacy-inquiry-recommendations.pdf>

Dr Jan Edwards attended the NGO briefing meetings provided by **Equality Rights Alliance** (ERA) over the course of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women. Meetings were held over a two week period and provided information about the processes associated with developing the Agreed Conclusions.

The **theme for 2022** was, Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; **The Review theme was:** Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session). The event was in hybrid format. The Agreed Conclusions can be found at -

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022>



Dr Jan Edwards represented WAVE at two meetings of the **ACFID COP** during March.



**A presentation on March 24<sup>th</sup>** by Adam Hegedus, Co-Founder and Managing Director of the NGO *Educating The Future* provided a shortened version of a presentation he is delivering to DFAT in April, outlining their work in pre-school reconstruction in Timor-Leste, a project led by the community and run by the Government in Timor-Leste. The group provided feedback on some of the issues. See - <https://www.educatingthefuture.org/>

***Global Partnerships in Education (GPE) funding*** - Lissy Moskowitz, the Senior Donor Relations Lead at the Global Partnership for Education. Australia has A\$180m over 5 years to the replenishment fund.

The key areas identified by GPE that will really ensure systems transformation are: stronger data and evidence; gender equality; sector coordination; and domestic financing. On the gender front, gender is now hardwired into everything that GPE does, and at all stages of sector analysis, grant development and monitoring and evaluation of GPE support. We've also launched a Girls' Education Accelerator, a US\$250m funding window to complement the gender hardwiring work and support partner countries that are lagging furthest behind.

A key gap is a focus on adult education or any funding being allocated to adult education. This was raised in the context of GPE's commitment to life-long learning. See - <https://www.globalpartnership.org/who-we-are/about-gpe>

ERAs media release in preparation for the federal election focuses on housing, violence against women and women's leadership. ERA argues that:

"This year's federal budget lacks the vision and serious gender lens needed to address the challenges faced by Australia in a just and sustainable manner."

"While there are a number of initiatives which show promise, the budget represents a missed opportunity to tackle the drivers of poverty,"

"There is a frustrating lack of future planning in this budget, whether in response to climate change and its related health and economic challenges or to the chronic lack of housing options for low-income people."

See the full media release at - <http://www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au/media-release-the-federal-budget-needs-a-vision-for-a-fairer-and-gender-just-australia/>

*Images courtesy of Unsplash. The internet's source of freely-usable images. Powered by creators everywhere.*